Summary of Current <u>Commercial</u> Fish Regulations in Delaware for 2016

THIS TABLE IS ONLY A SUMMARY, DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS AND LAWS PREVAIL - Changes from 2016, whether tentative or final, are in red.

| Species            | Commercial Min. Size Limit           | Commercial Season   | Special Conditions / Comments   |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| American Eel       | 9"                                   | Open Year Round   | ½" x ½" Mesh size in eel pots   |
| Atlantic Menhaden  | None                                 | Quota Based – Subject to closure once quota has been reached  | 6,000 pound daily bycatch allowance; daily & monthly reporting  |
| Bass, Black Sea    | 11"                                  | Open Year Round   | Black Sea Bass Permits Required for Pots &<br>Commercial Hook & Line  |
| Bass, Striped      | 20" (Gill Net)                       | Gill Net: Delaware River & Bay - Feb. 15-May 31<br>Nanticoke River – Feb 15 - Mar 30  | Drift-net only: Feb. 15 – Feb. 28 (Str mesh > 4"),<br>May 1 - May 31<br>Registration & Tags Required<br>Area & Gear Restrictions †† |
|                    | 28" (Hook & Line)                    | All other areas and seasons including fall gill net  H&L April 1-Dec. 31  Atlantic Ocean –Feb. 15 –May 31   |   |
| Bluefish           | None                                 | Open Year Round   |   |
| Croaker, Atlantic  | 8"                                   | Open Year Round   |   |
| Drum, Black        | 16"                                  | Open Year Round   | Max 10,000 lb /day harvest limit  |
| Drum, Red          | 20-27", none > 27"                   | Open Year Round   | 5/day   |
| Flounder, Summer   | 14" gill nets<br>16" all other gears | Gill net open year round unless de minimus amount is landed<br>Hook & Line Open Year Round  | 200 pounds daily limit<br>Subject to closure if quota is exceeded   |
| Flounder, Winter   | 12"                                  | Open Year Round   | 50 pounds daily limit   |
| Herring, River     |                                      | CLOSED  | River herring incl. alewife & blueback herring  |
| Mackerel, Spanish  | 14"                                  | Open Year Round   | 3,500 lbs. per day  |
| Sharks             | None                                 | Quota Based, closed when federal waters are closed<br>Prohibited species and Sandbar sharks closed year-round<br>Aggregated Large Coastal Sharks closed May 15-Jul. 15† | Consult Tidal Finfish Regulation 3541   |
| Spot               | None                                 | Open Year Round   |   |
| Spotted Seatrout   | 12"                                  | Open Year Round   |   |
| Sturgeon, Atlantic |                                      | CLOSED  |   |
| Tautog             | 15"                                  | Closed May 12 – July 16 and Sept. 1-28  | 5 fish bag; 3 fish Apr 1 – May 11   |

| Species                   | Commercial Min. Size Limit        | Commercial Season  | Special Conditions / Comments   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Weakfish<br>(Sea trout)   | 12" Gill Net<br>13" Hook & Line * | Closed May 1 – June 3 **                                     | 100 lb per day vessel limit Jan 1 – Apr 30,<br>Jun 3-Dec 31<br>1 fish H&L limit on non-specified days<br>May 1 – Oct 31 * |
| White Perch               | 8"                                | Open Year Round  |   |
| Scup                      | 9"                                | Open Year Round  |   |
| Shad (American & Hickory) | None                              | Open Year Round  | Closed Atlantic Ocean, Nanticoke River & Broad Creek  |
| Smoothhound               | None                              | Quota Based – Subject to closure once quota has been reached | Formerly known as Smooth dogfish  |
| Spiny Dogfish             | None                              | Quota based, closed when regional season closes              | 10,000-lb trip limit  |

<sup>\* -</sup> Weakfish minimum size is 13" for all commercial hook and line fishermen. Between June 3 and October 31, Commercial H&L allowed only 4 days/week, 1 fish limit on non-specified days.

<sup>\*\* -</sup> Up to 100 pounds of weakfish may be landed as bycatch, provided that the combined weight of all other finfish retained per day or trip (whichever is the longer period of time) is greater than weight of the weakfish.

<sup>† -</sup> From May 15 - Jul. 15, the following shark species may not be retained: tiger, nurse, lemon, blacktip, spinner, bull, great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, and silky.

<sup>†† -</sup> No fixed gill nets may be fished in the Delaware estuary north of Liston Point from Jan 1-May 31; no gill nets may be fished in the Nanticoke River and its tributaries or the C & D Canal and its tributaries having twine size larger than 0.28mm in diameter or with a stretch mesh > 5 1/2"

## Summary of Current Commercial Shellfish Regulations in Delaware for 2016 THIS TABLE IS ONLY A SUMMARY, DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS AND LAWS PREVAIL - Changes from 2016, whether tentative or final, are in red.

| Species                | Commercial Min. Size Limit  | Commercial Season   | Special Conditions / Comments   |
|------------------------|---|---|---|
| Blue Crabs (Pot)       | 5" Hard; 3.5" Soft; 3" Peeler   | March 1-Nov 30  | Pot: DE River and Bay, Roy's Creek south of Fenwick Island Ditch                                  |
| Blue Crabs<br>(Dredge) | 5" Hard; Mature Female-None   | Dec 15-March 31   | Dredge: DE Bay and Atlantic Ocean   |
| Clams, Hard            | 1.5"  | Closed Sundays from Memorial to Labor Day;<br>Area closures ##  | Tong: 2500 per day;<br>Dredge: No limit (DE Bay only)   |
| Conchs, Channeled      | 3 1/8" dia. at whorl or 6" long   | Open Year Round   | Dredge and/or Pot permit required   |
| Conchs, Knobbed        | 3 1/2" dia. at whorl or 6" long   | Open Year Round   | Dredge and/or Pot permit required   |
| Horseshoe Crabs        | None  | Closed Jan. 1- June 7 (No harvest Sat. and Sun. after June 7). If quota not filled, beach harvest allowed until July 31. No dredge harvest until July 1 | Harvest quota 154,527 males, no females, daily reporting required, ††††                           |
| Lobster                | 3 3/8" minimum carapace<br>length*; Maximum length 5<br>1/4" either sex | Closed Sundays  | 50 pot limit, no more than 100 lobsters/day except in pots; No V-notched females may be possessed |
| Oysters (dredge)       | 2 3/4"  | Open April 1 – May 30; September 1 – December 31<br>Excluding Sundays   | Registration & Tags Required  |

<sup>\* -</sup> Carapace length measured from rear of eye socket to posterior edge of body shell.

<sup>## -</sup> See clamming closure map in Fishing Guide. Clams may not be harvested on Sundays between and including Labor Day and Memorial Day.

<sup>†††† -</sup> It is unlawful to possess or use as bait Asian horseshoe crabs or any parts thereof without permission from the Division of Fish & Wildlife.